

**Amendments to the Specification:**

This listing of the specification will replace all prior versions of the corresponding paragraphs of the specification in the application.

**Listing of Amended paragraphs of the Specification:**

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 12 to read as follows:

(Plasmids)

cDNAs encoding Notch ΔE-M1727V (NΔE) and NICD with C-terminal 6 x c-myc tag inserted in pcDNA3 hygro were prepared in the manner described in Schroeter *et al.* (Schroeter, E.H., Kisslinger, J.A., Kopan, R. (1998), "Notch-1 signalling requires ligand-induced proteolytic release of intracellular domain", *Nature*, 393, 382-386). The cDNAs were gift from Dr. R. Kopan. N-terminally FLAG-tagged NEXT, i.e., FLAG-NEXT (F-NEXT), was prepared by 2-step site-directed mutagenesis. In the first step, F-NEXT M1727V was produced using the ExSite PCR-Based Site-Directed Mutagenesis Kit (Stratagene). NΔE was used as a template, and the following two primers 1 and 2 (~~SEQ ID NO: 19 and SEQ ID NO: 20~~) were prepared.

Primer 1:

5-P-ATCGTCGCTTGTAGTCTCTCAAGCCTTTGCCGCCAGCGCGGGCA  
GCAGCGTTAG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 19)

Primer 2:

5-P-GACAAGATGGTGATGAAGAGTGAGCCGGTGGAGCCTCCGCTGCCCT  
CGCAGCTG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 20)

In the second step, F-NEXT was prepared by site-directed mutagenesis using Quick Change Site-Directed Mutagenesis Kit (Stratagene). The F-NEXT M1727V was used as a template, and the following two primers 3 and 4 (~~SEQ ID NO: 21 and SEQ ID NO: 22~~) were prepared.

Primer 3: 5-CCTCGCAGCTGCACCTCATGTACGTGGCAGCG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 21)

Primer 4: 5-CGCTGCCACGTACATGAGGTGCAGCTGCGAGG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 22)